

# MOASC

## NextGen Oncology Mentorship Program

Cultivating the Next Generation of Oncology Leaders in Southern California

Academic Year 2026–2027 | Inaugural Cohort

### A MESSAGE FROM MOASC PRESIDENT SUMANTA K. PAL, MD

The Medical Oncology Association of Southern California is proud to announce the launch of our inaugural NextGen Oncology Mentorship Program — one of the most exclusive career development experiences available to early-career oncology professionals in the region. The transition from trainee to independent physician-scientist remains one of the most challenging periods in a young oncologist's career, and the NextGen Program was built to bridge that gap. We look forward to welcoming our inaugural cohort and shaping the future of cancer care in Southern California together.

**Sumanta K. Pal, MD | President, MOASC | City of Hope**

### PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

4

Fellows Selected

3

Weekend Sessions

1

Year-Long Program

12+

Expert Faculty

### WHAT IS THE NEXTGEN PROGRAM?

The NextGen Program is a year-long, cohort-based curriculum for four (4) highly selected early-career oncology professionals from training programs across Southern California. Through three intensive weekend sessions, participants gain unparalleled access to:

- **Strategic Career Mentorship**

One-on-one and group guidance from MOASC Board Members and nationally recognized oncology leaders

- **Research Portfolio Development**

Expert coaching on building a high-impact research career, identifying clinical trial opportunities, and securing grant funding

- **Elite Networking**

Direct access to senior oncology faculty from City of Hope, UCLA, UCSD, UC Irvine, Cedars-Sinai, and beyond

- **Applied Leadership Experience**

A year-long Capstone Project that translates mentorship into real-world MOASC initiative leadership

This is not a lecture series. It is a transformative, relationship-driven program designed to accelerate careers and shape the oncology leaders of tomorrow.

## CURRICULUM — THREE WEEKEND SESSIONS

Each session takes place over a weekend: a Friday evening networking dinner and cohort reception, followed by a full-day Saturday curriculum led by MOASC Board Member Co-Directors and invited national faculty. Sessions are spaced throughout the academic year to allow participants to reflect, apply learnings, and advance the Capstone Project between meetings.

### SESSION 1 Navigating First Job Opportunities & Early Faculty Years

Co-Directors: Dr. Sumanta K. Pal (City of Hope) & Dr. Neal Chawla (Sarcoma Institute of LA)

- ▶ **Friday Evening** — Welcome Reception, Networking Dinner & Capstone Project Kickoff
- ▶ The First 100 Days: Transitioning from Fellow to Faculty — Dr. Alex Chehrizi-Raffle, City of Hope
- ▶ Building a High-Impact Research Portfolio & Clinical Trials Career — Dr. Edward Garon, UCLA
- ▶ Negotiating Your First Contract & Finding Your Niche — Interactive Workshop — Drs. Pal & Chawla
- ▶ Masterclass: Sustaining Excellence as a Senior Clinical Trialist — Dr. Hope Rugo, UCSF
- ▶ Research Collaboration Roundtable — Open Faculty Q&A — Full faculty panel

### SESSION 2 Academia & Education

Co-Directors: Dr. Jason Zell (UC Irvine) & Dr. Anthony Nguyen (UC San Diego)

- ▶ **Friday Evening** — Networking Dinner & Capstone Mid-Year Review
- ▶ Building an Academic Identity & Teaching Portfolio — Establishing your educational brand in oncology
- ▶ Curriculum Design, Mentorship & Educational Leadership — Leading the next generation of trainees
- ▶ Communicating Science: Publications, Lectures & Academic Brand — From abstract to keynote
- ▶ Navigating Promotion & Tenure in Academic Oncology — What committees look for

### SESSION 3 Grantsmanship & Research Funding — Capstone Celebration

Co-Directors: Dr. Mina Sedrak (UCLA) & Dr. Andrew Hendifar (Cedars-Sinai)

- ▶ **Friday Evening** — Capstone Gala Dinner — Celebrating the Cohort Year
- ▶ Grant Writing Fundamentals: NIH K Awards, R01s & Foundation Grants — Step-by-step strategy
- ▶ Identifying Funding Opportunities & Building a Research Team — Foundations for independence
- ▶ From Pilot Data to Peer-Reviewed Funding: Strategy & Execution — Making your data work for you
- ▶ **Capstone Project Presentations & Year-End Awards Ceremony** — Cohort showcase

### The Capstone Project

Throughout the program year, the cohort collaborates on a year-long applied leadership initiative: the MOASC Membership Growth Project. This real-world capstone translates mentorship theory into practice, challenges fellows to think strategically about the future of oncology organizations in Southern California, and culminates in a formal presentation at the Session 3 Gala. It is the defining deliverable of the NextGen experience.

## ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION

The NextGen Program is intentionally small — limited to four (4) fellows per cohort — ensuring every participant receives a deeply personalized, high-touch mentorship experience. Selection is competitive and merit-based, with final decisions made by the MOASC Board of Directors.

### WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Medical Oncology Fellows**  
Currently enrolled in an ACGME-accredited fellowship in Southern California
- Junior Faculty**  
Medical oncologists within 4 years of fellowship completion
- Southern California Based**  
Affiliated with a training program or institution in SoCal
- Program Director Endorsed**  
Explicit PD commitment to provide full clinical release for all 3 sessions

### SELECTION CRITERIA

- Leadership Potential**  
Demonstrated or emerging leadership qualities in clinical, research, or educational settings
- Research Trajectory**  
Scholarly productivity and a compelling vision for independent investigation
- MOASC Mission Alignment**  
Commitment to advancing oncology care and advocacy in Southern California
- Application Quality**  
Strength and clarity of Letter of Intent and Program Director letter of support

**⚠ Important: Program Director Commitment Required**

Because the NextGen Program requires immersive, in-person participation, attendance at all three weekend sessions is mandatory. Program Directors submitting a letter of support formally commit to releasing their fellow from all clinical responsibilities from 5:00 PM Friday through 5:00 PM Saturday on each designated NextGen weekend, including:

- Weekend call duties
- Inpatient rounding responsibilities
- Outpatient clinic coverage and any other programmatic obligations

### FEATURED FACULTY

<p><b>Sumanta K. Pal, MD</b> City of Hope MOASC President · GU Oncology</p>	<p><b>Neal Chawla, MD</b> Sarcoma Institute of LA Medical Oncology · Sarcoma</p>	<p><b>Edward Garon, MD</b> UCLA Thoracic Oncology Program Director</p>
<p><b>Hope Rugo, MD</b> UCSF Breast Cancer · Masterclass Faculty</p>	<p><b>Jason Zell, DO, MPH</b> UC Irvine GI Oncology · Academic Leadership</p>	<p><b>Mina Sedrak, MD</b> UCLA Breast Oncology · Grantsmanship</p>
<p><b>Anthony Nguyen, MD</b> UC San Diego Medical Oncology · Education</p>	<p><b>Andrew Hendifar, MD</b> Cedars-Sinai GI Oncology · Research Funding</p>	<p><b>Alex Chehrizi-Raffle, MD</b> City of Hope Thoracic Oncology · Career Mentorship</p>

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications are evaluated holistically. MOASC seeks candidates who demonstrate not only clinical and scholarly promise, but a genuine commitment to oncology leadership and the Southern California oncology community.

### APPLICATION MATERIALS

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**

Full academic and clinical CV including publications, presentations, and research activities

- **Letter of Intent (1 page)**

Concise statement of your career goals and how the NextGen Program will help you achieve them

- **Program Director Letter of Support**

Must endorse leadership potential AND confirm full clinical release for all three NextGen weekends

### KEY DATES

- **Application Deadline**

May 30, 2026

- **Decision Notification**

June 15, 2026

- **Session 1 Weekend**

Fall 2026 — [Insert Dates]

- **Session 2 Weekend**

Winter 2026–2027 — [Insert Dates]

- **Session 3 / Capstone Gala**

Spring 2027 — [Insert Dates]

Submit Applications To:

**Sumanta K. Pal, MD (spal@coh.org)**

Questions? Contact MOASC Executive Director: neast@moasc.org | 909-985-9061 ext. 1002

### WHY THIS PROGRAM? WHY NOW?

The career gap between fellowship completion and research independence is real — and consequential. Without structured mentorship, too many brilliant young oncologists struggle to navigate contract negotiations, build competitive grant portfolios, or develop the academic brand needed to lead their field. The NextGen Program exists to change that, specifically for the Southern California oncology community.

Fellows who complete the program will leave with a peer network that becomes a lifelong collegial community, mentorship relationships with multiple senior MOASC faculty leaders, concrete skills in grantsmanship, contract negotiation and academic development, and a completed leadership project with real organizational impact.

“This program is meant to help launch the careers of fellows and junior faculty as they focus on exciting, groundbreaking work. We are proud to offer this experience to the most promising young oncologists in Southern California.”

— Sumanta K. Pal, MD | President, MOASC

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